United Nations A/57/626

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 November 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 109 (b)
Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Letter dated 22 November 2002 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to the draft resolution on Khmer Rouge trials which the Third Committee has recommended to the General Assembly for adoption (A/C.3/57/L.70).

If it adopts the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request me to resume negotiations to conclude an agreement with the Government of Cambodia on the establishment of Extraordinary Chambers within the existing court structure of Cambodia for the prosecution of crimes committed during the period of Democratic Kampuchea.

In that event my intention would be to conduct those negotiations in such a way as to ensure that prosecutions and trials before those Chambers comply with established international standards regarding the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, the effectiveness, impartiality and fairness of prosecutors and the integrity and credibility of the legal process.

It is also my intention to include information on the financing needs of the Extraordinary Chambers in the report that I would submit to the General Assembly in accordance with operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution. The report will also include a proposal on the method of funding, including through assessed contributions.

I would appreciate it if you would circulate this letter to the members of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

02-71257 (E) 261102